

wherein:

X_1 , which may be the same or different in each segment, is from zero to thirty natural or synthetic amino acids;

X_2 , which may be the same or different in each segment, is from zero to thirty natural or synthetic amino acids, provided that the N-terminal amino acid of X_2 is not glycine;

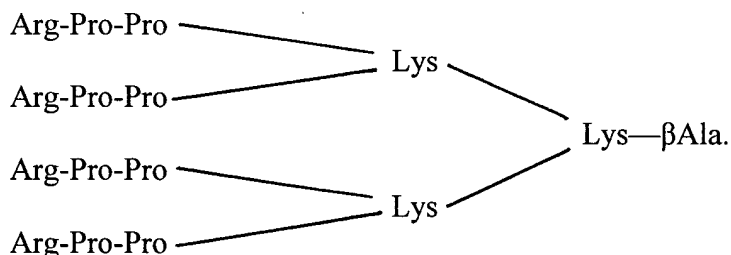
L is a linker comprising a covalent bond or chemical group; and

n is an integer from two to twenty.

25. (once amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24 comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Arg-Pro-Pro-Lys
|
Arg-Pro-Pro-Asp; and

(b)



Remarks

Claims 1 – 28 are pending in the application, and have been allowed. The issue fee has been paid and the present application will proceed to issue on June 26, 2001.

Withdrawal of the application from issue is necessary because claims 24 and 25, as presently written, are unpatentable. Applicants herein submit amendments to claims 24 and 25 that restore their patentability.

Amendments to Claims 24 and 25

On April 4, 2001, Applicants received a search report from the European Patent Office for the European equivalent of the present case. Four references were cited in the